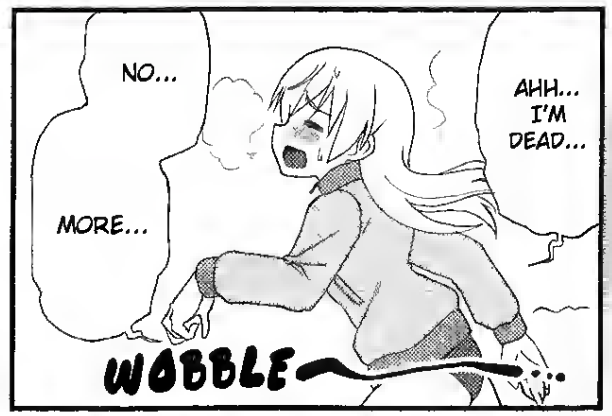
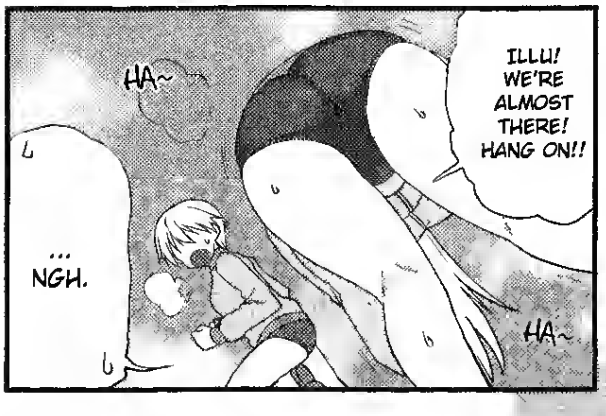
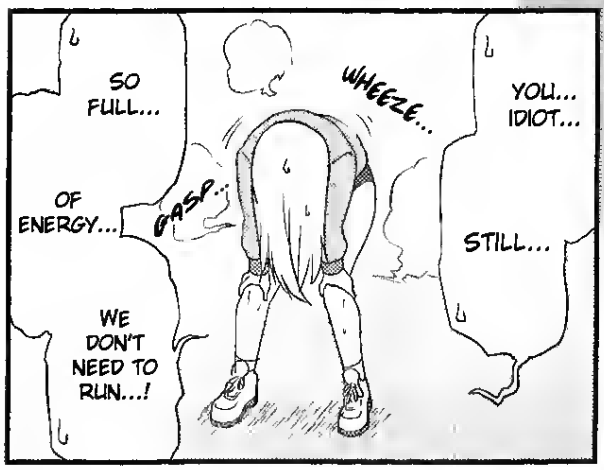
CHAPTER 5
Luku 5
LAURA NISSINEN
STRIKE WITCHES WITCHES OF AURORA
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
ALRIGHT, FIVE MORE LAPS!!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA~
HA~
WOBBLE...

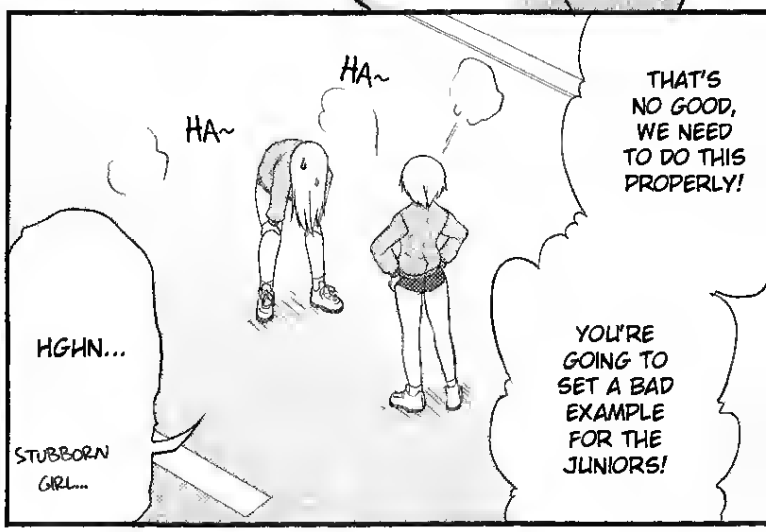

NO...
MORE...
AHH... I'M DEAD...
WOBBLE~


HA~
...NGH.
ILLU! WE'RE ALMOST THERE! HANG ON!!
HA~


SO FULL... OF ENERGY...
WE DON'T NEED TO RUN...!
GASP...
WHEEZE...
YOU... IDIOT...
STILL...

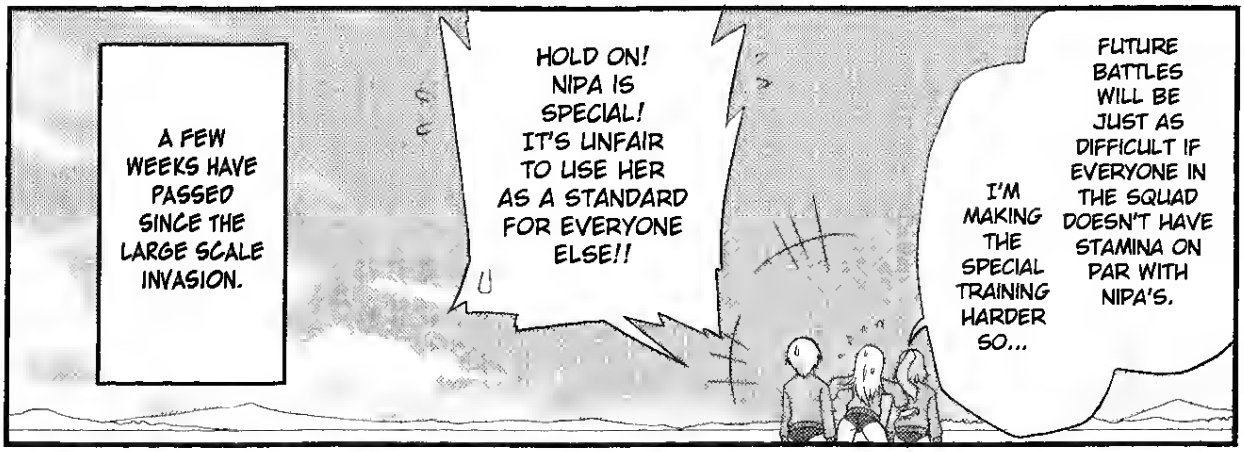
HA
HA
HA

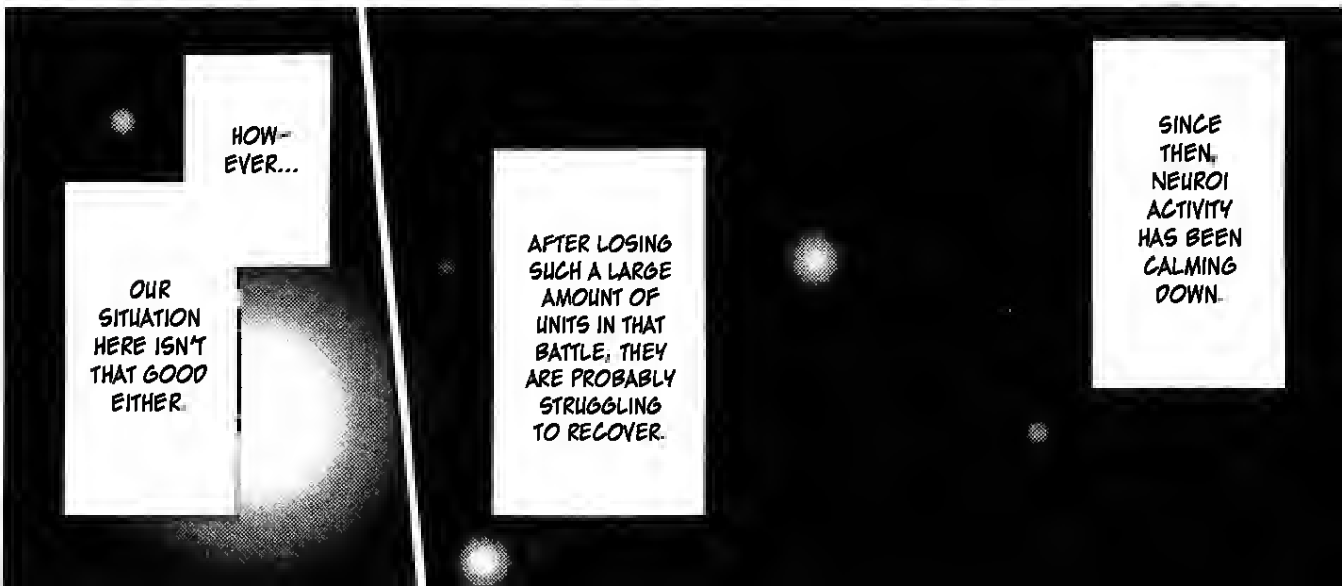
WHAT, YOU'RE ALREADY DONE, ILLU?


HA~
HA~
THAT'S NO GOOD, WE NEED TO DO THIS PROPERLY!
HGHN...
STUBBORN GIRL...
YOU'RE GOING TO SET A BAD EXAMPLE FOR THE JUNIORS!

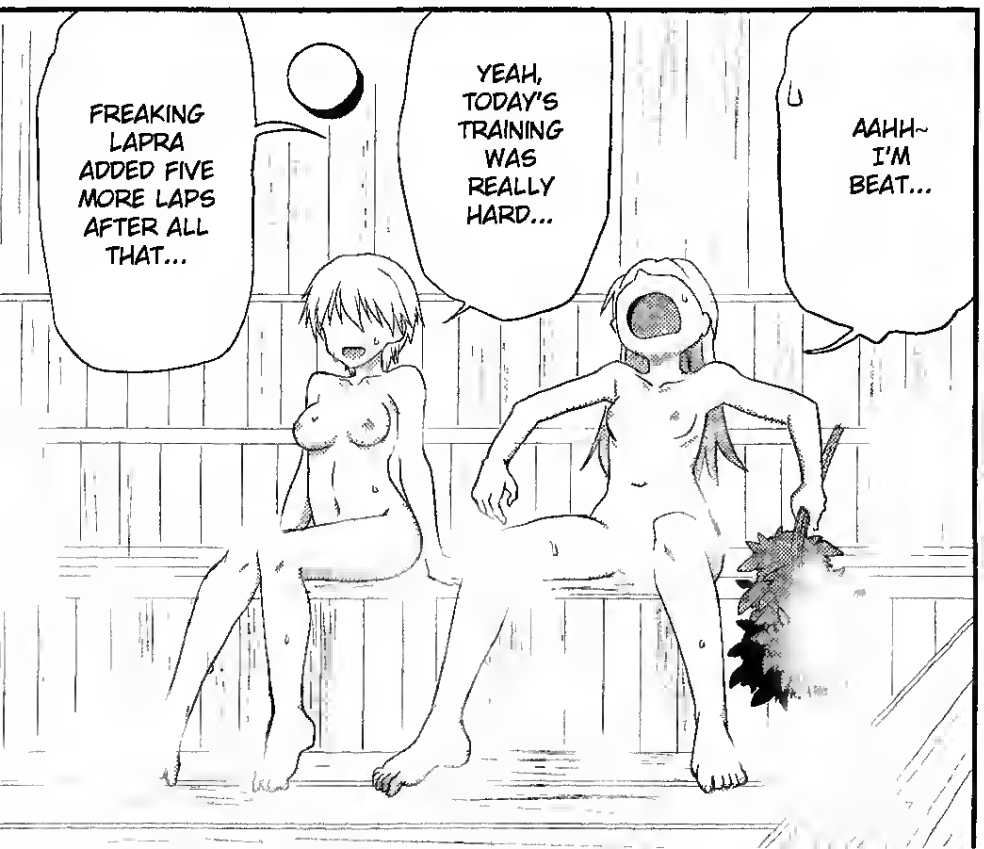
LAPRA...
IN YOUR CONDITION YOU'LL END UP GETTING COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED JUST LIKE IN THE LAST BATTLE.
YOU ARE OUR ACE.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
.....
HA
HA

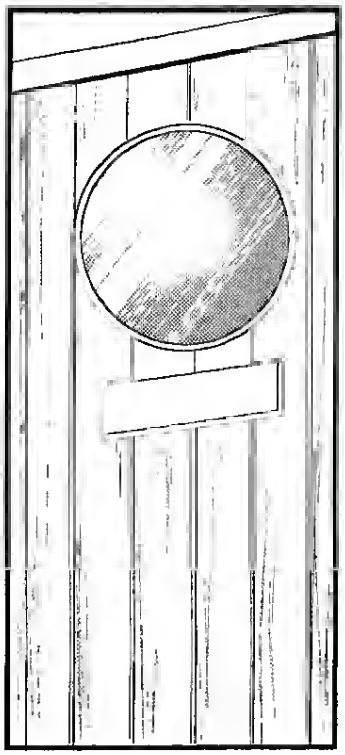
HOW ABOUT WE ADD ONE MORE LAP AND A RACE ON THE RUNWAY?
NO WAY!?
BUT...
PERHAPS YOU COULD SAY THAT ABOUT ME TOO...


A FEW WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE LARGE SCALE INVASION.
HOLD ON! NIPA IS SPECIAL! IT'S UNFAIR TO USE HER AS A STANDARD FOR EVERYONE ELSE!!
I'M MAKING THE SPECIAL TRAINING HARDER SO...
FUTURE BATTLES WILL BE JUST AS DIFFICULT IF EVERYONE IN THE SQUAD DOESN'T HAVE STAMINA ON PAR WITH NIPA'S.


HOW-EVER...
OUR SITUATION HERE ISN'T THAT GOOD EITHER.
AFTER LOSING SUCH A LARGE AMOUNT OF UNITS IN THAT BATTLE, THEY ARE PROBABLY STRUGGLING TO RECOVER.
SINCE THEN, NEUROI ACTIVITY HAS BEEN CALMING DOWN.

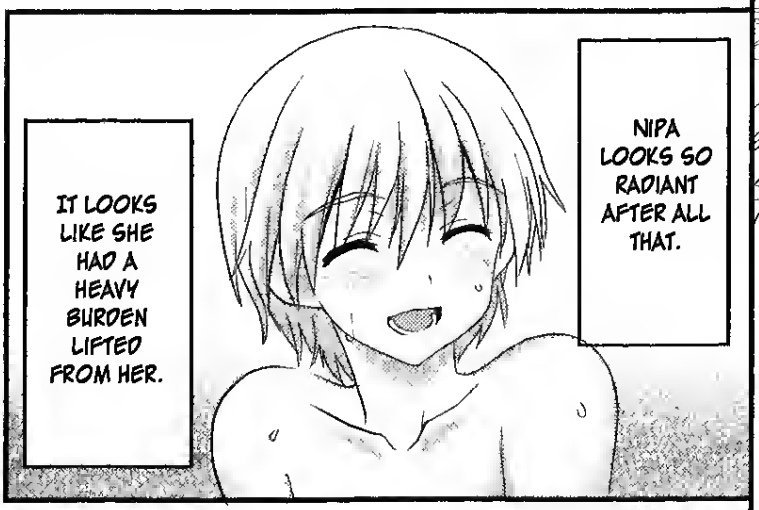
LAPRA WAS ASSIGNED AS A TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE FOR THE BATTLE COMMANDER'S POSITION, BUT EVERYONE WAS STILL IN SHOCK OVER LOSING THEIR EMOTIONAL PILLAR
WE HAVE SPENT ALL OUR DAYS ON TRYING TO REBUILD OUR TROOPS.
HASSE'S WOUNDS FROM THE LAST BATTLE WEREN'T LIFE-THREATENING, BUT STILL BAD ENOUGH.
SHE HAS BEEN FORCED TO TAKE MEDICAL TREATMENT AND REST FOR A LONG PERIOD.


FREAKING LAPRA ADDED FIVE MORE LAPS AFTER ALL THAT...
YEAH, TODAY'S TRAINING WAS REALLY HARD...
AAHH~ I'M BEAT...



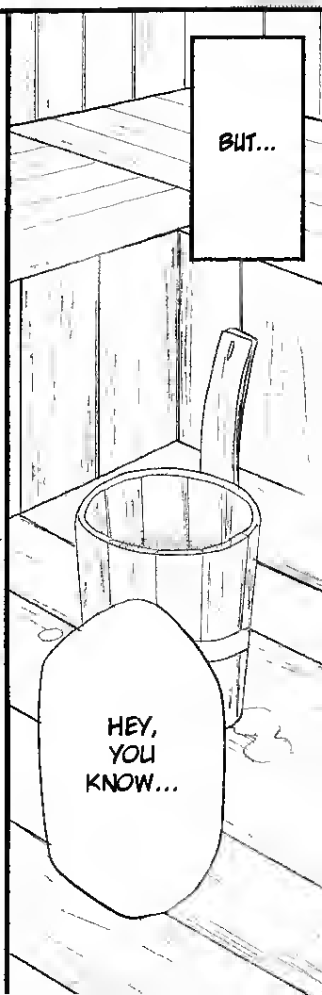
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT SWEAT! IT'S ABOUT THIS RE-FRESHING FEELING AFTER EXERCISING!
EHHH... I'M FINE WITH SWEATING IN JUST THE SAUNA, BUT... THIS HERE ISN'T FUN, I'M TOO TIRED...
EEHHH...

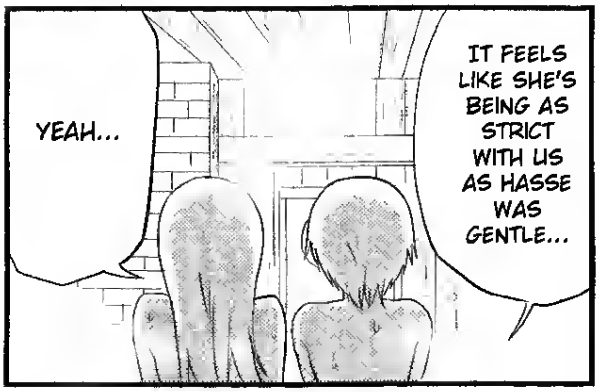
BUT YOU SEE!
IT FEELS SOOO GOOD TO GET INTO A SAUNA AFTER RUNNING AROUND!


NIPA LOOKS SO RADIANT AFTER ALL THAT.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE HAD A HEAVY BURDEN LIFTED FROM HER.

YES, INDEED...
SHE ALREADY HAD THAT SPARTAN STYLE, BUT SINCE BECOMING A TEMPORARY COMMANDER IT'S GOTTEN EVEN WORSE.

ISN'T LAPRA'S TRAINING A BIT TOO RIGID?
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT US, BUT THE ROOKIES WILL END UP FALLING BEHIND.


BUT...
HEY, YOU KNOW...


IT FEELS LIKE SHE'S BEING AS STRICT WITH US AS HASSE WAS GENTLE...
YEAH...

BUT IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
IF SHE TOOK IT EASY AND RECEIVED EVERYONE WITH A GOOD SMILE, THINGS WOULD BE A BIT BETTER...
BUT LAPRA'S NOT THAT KIND OF PERSON...
WELL, I'VE NEVER SEEN HER CRACK A SMILE.
SAME HERE.
?
FU... FUFU...
SHE JUST THOUGHT UP SOMETHING BAD AGAIN...
THAT'S IT...!!
SHI
NG

LAPRA!
DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
WHAT? NEED ANYTHING?
YOU SEE... I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT TEAMWORK, BUT-
NOW LISTEN, NIPA. I WANT YOU TO GRAB LAPRA'S ATTENTION AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.
I WILL USE THAT MOMENT TO GO AND GIVE HER THE TICKLING OF HER LIFE!
EHH~... WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE LAPRA LAUGHING? BECAUSE I DO.

NIPA, YOU IDIOT! BEING STRAIGHT-FORWARD WITH HER WON'T WORK!
AND THIS AIN'T SOMETHING FOR US ONLY!
LAUGHING IN JOY, OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT...
WELL, I WOULD IF I COULD...
BUT NOT BY USING THIS KIND OF METHOD... MAYBE IF... WELL...
HMM... YOU HAVE A POINT... I THINK.
RIGHT?
I WOULDN'T EXPECT THEM GETTING CLOSER TO HER LIKE THEY DID WITH NIPA, BUT EVEN A TINY BIT WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH.
IT WILL RID HER SPARTAN IMAGE FROM THE NEWBIES' MINDS AND REDUCE THEIR ANXIETY.
IF WE MANAGE TO GET HER TO LAUGH IN FRONT OF EVERYONE, WE MIGHT IMPROVE THE SQUAD'S MOOD!
...I WENT ALONG WITH THAT PLAN OF HERS, BUT NOW...
SO LET'S CREATE A "SMILE" FOR LAPRA!
PLEASE MAKE THIS WORK, ILLUUU!...

SNEAK
SHI
NG
NOW!!
AH,
THERE'S SOME SALMIAKKI HERE.
!?
AH

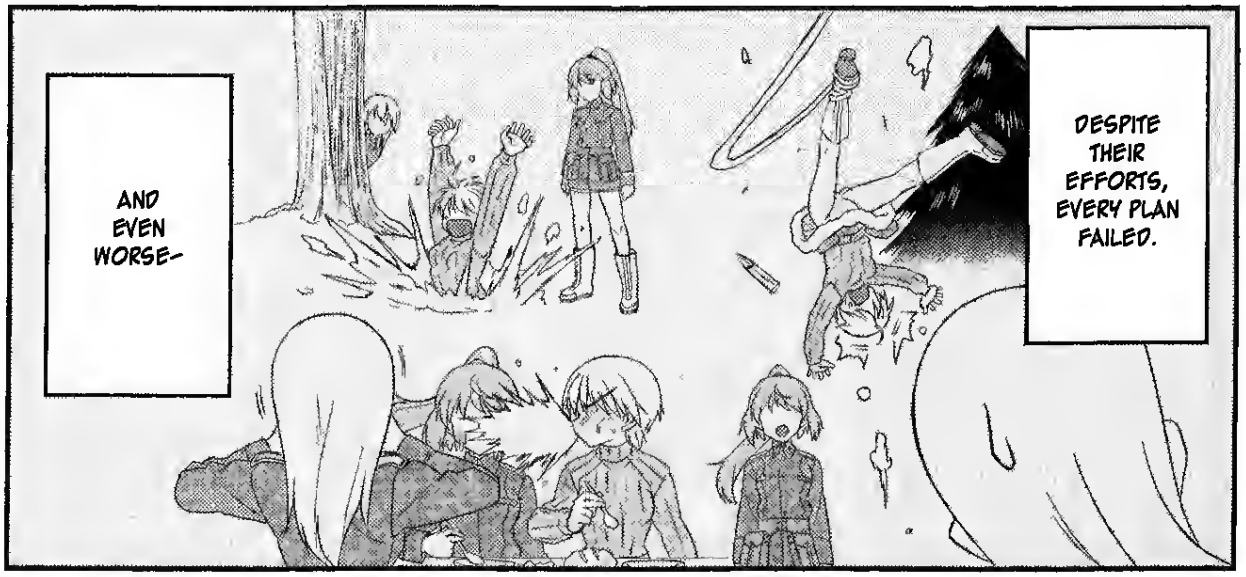
HM? WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ILLU?
OW...
OHHH, IT'S NOTHING, REALLY...
NO GOOD, EVEN THOUGH I KEEP TELLING THEM TO CLEAN UP IF THEY GET SOMETHING DIRTY...
MNGHY-AAA!!?
AH... AAAHH~ RIGHT... WE'LL BE CAREFUL NEXT TIME...
DAMN! NEXT TIME! I'LL GET HER WITH A DIFFERENT PLAN!!
...GIRLS, I DON'T CARE HOW CHUMMY YOU ARE, BUT COME ON, DO THINGS IN MODERATION.
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING NERVOUS FOR? COME OUT ALREADY.
BUUUT....
ALRIGHT! YOU READY, NIPA?
WA... WAIT A MINUTE, ILLU...

IT'S EMBARRASSING...
WHY DID YOU FORCE ME TO WEAR THIS...
YOU'RE A HUGE BULLY, YOU KNOW?
IF OUR NIPA APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE WEARING SUCH CUTE CLOTHES, NO ONE WOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE!
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S YOU, SO IT'S FUN.
IS IT THAT WEIRD?!
NGGGGN!! HEY! DON'T FORGET OUR DEAL! YOU'LL TREAT ME WITH SWEETS FOR THREE DAYS!
BUT NOW I'M SURE EVEN LAPRA WOULD LAUGH HER ASS OFF.
AH...
!!
IT'S TIME! GO!

UUHHH... THEY'LL MAKE FUN OF ME...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LISTENED TO ILLUUU...
ERM.... YOU KNOW...
I JUST... WANTED... TO TRY IT... ON...?
.....
YOU'RE...
NIPA? WHAT'S UP WITH THAT OUTFIT?
.....
IT'S REALLY CUTE.
SUITS YOU PRETTY WELL.

SHUT
.....
HE... HEHE...
SHE... SHE TOLD ME I'M CUTE...!
BLUSH
ドデーン
NIPA, YOU DUMMY!
WHAT THE HELL ARE WE DOING IF THE ONE SMILING HERE IS YOU?! PATHETIC! YOU'RE TOO EASY!!
SO COOL...!!
SO.....

HOWEVER...
SOB SOB...
DAMMIT! I'LL USE ANY MEANS NECESSARY TO SEE HER LAUGH!!


AND EVEN WORSE-
DESPITE THEIR EFFORTS, EVERY PLAN FAILED.

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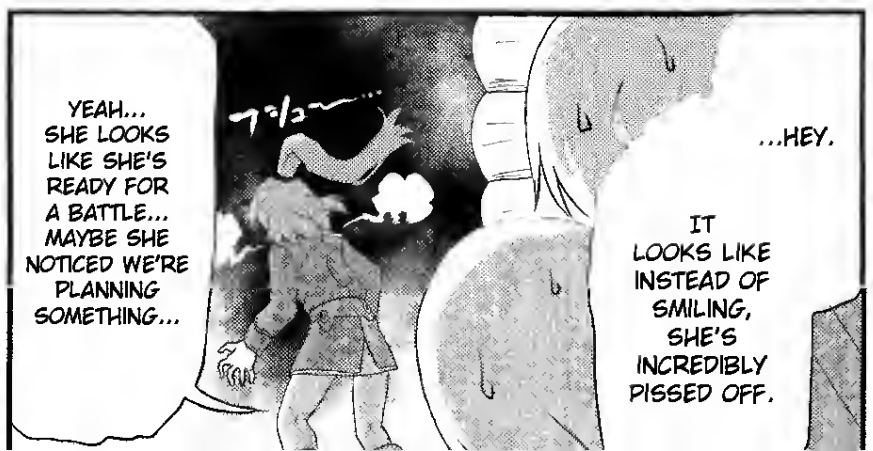
HAH! IF THAT'S THE CASE, IT'S TIME FOR MY LAST RESORT.
LET'S DO IT!!


YEAH... SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S READY FOR A BATTLE... MAYBE SHE NOTICED WE'RE PLANNING SOMETHING...
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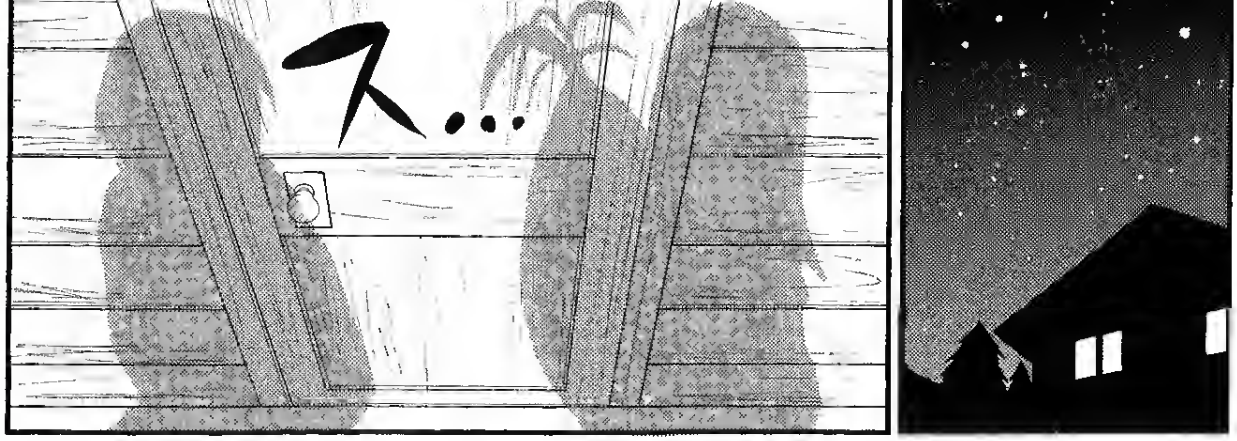
...HEY.
IT LOOKS LIKE INSTEAD OF SMILING, SHE'S INCREDIBLY PISSED OFF.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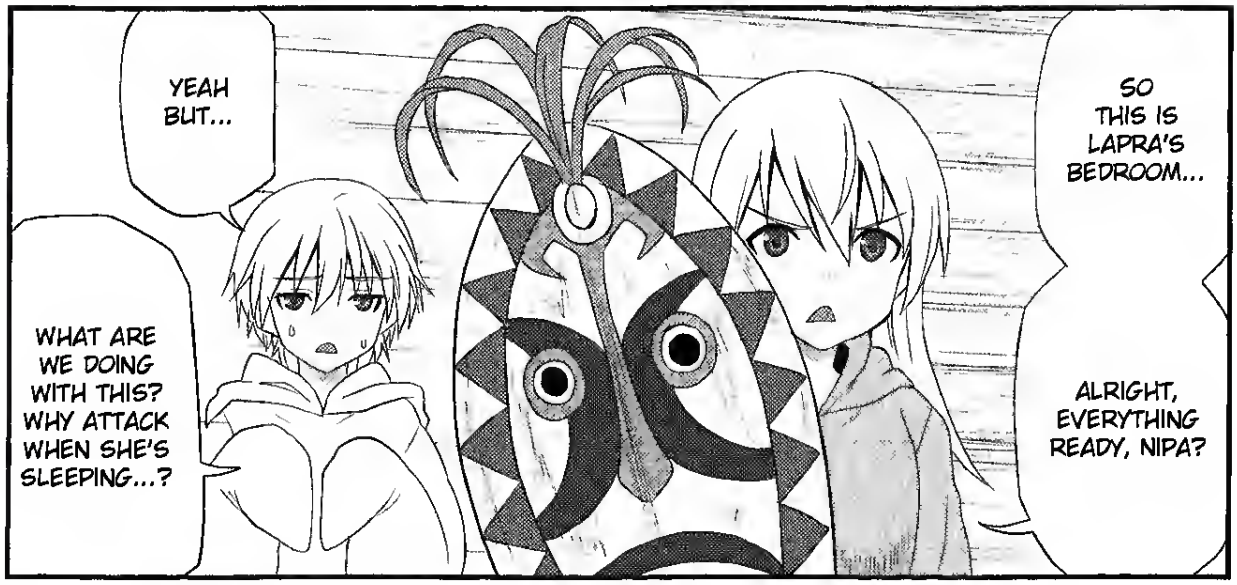
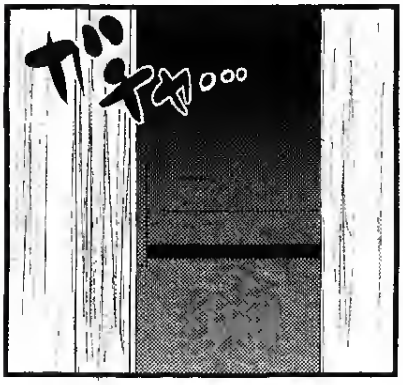

SO THIS IS LAPRA'S BEDROOM...
ALRIGHT, EVERYTHING READY, NIPA?
YEAH BUT...
WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS? WHY ATTACK WHEN SHE'S SLEEPING...?

NIPA, YOU IDIOT! AREN'T YOU FRUSTRATED!? WE DID ALL THAT AND SHE DIDN'T EVEN BAT AN EYE! DON'T YOU WANT TO WIN AGAINST HER AT LEAST ONCE!?
WELL... THAT'S...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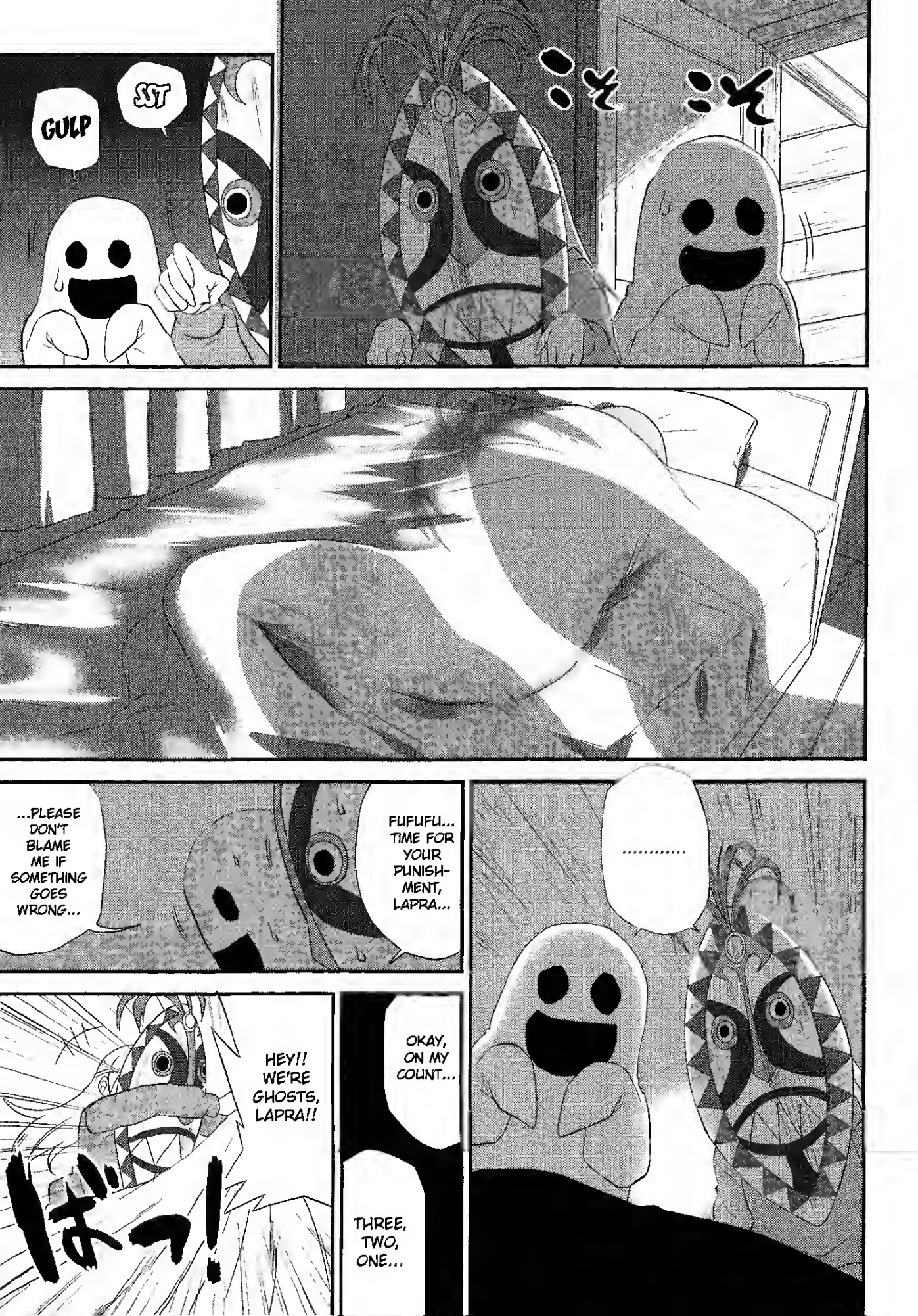
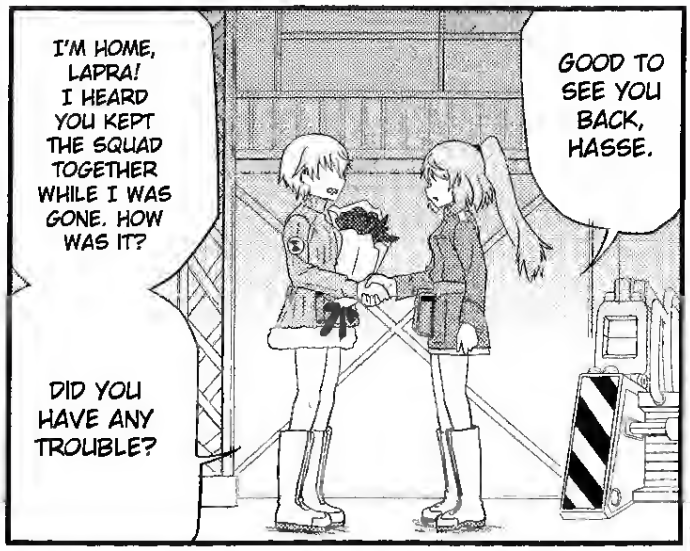
FUFUFU, I'LL SHOW YOU... MY PRIZED COLLECTION OF OCCULT STUFF WILL MAKE HER DROP IN FEAR...!
HER TEARFUL FACE WILL BE A MARK IN OUR HISTORY.
THAT'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT GOAL THAN BEFORE!!

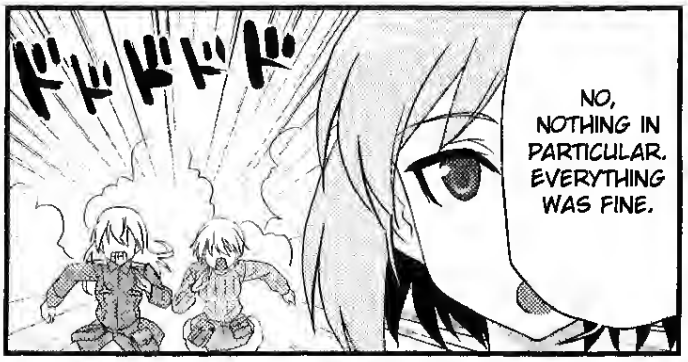

GULP
SST
...PLEASE DON'T BLAME ME IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG...
FUFUFU... TIME FOR YOUR PUNISH-MENT, LAPRA...
.....
HEY!! WE'RE GHOSTS, LAPRA!!
OKAY, ON MY COUNT...
THREE, TWO, ONE...
ばっ!

WH-WHAAAAAA!?
WHO'S TRYING TO INTERRUPT MY PEACEFUL SLEEP!!?
WHO DARES DISTURB MY SLEEP...
ILLU AND NIPA...?
Pause
.....
HEEEEY LAPRA, CALM DOWN, WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS!! IT'S ILLU AND NIPA!!
W-WAIT A MINUTE! SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT, ILLU!! SHE'S ACTING REALLY STRANGE!!

...SO.
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU TWO HAVE WITH ME?
NAHH, IT'S NOTHING! WE JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU A SURPRISE!
BUT MAYBE THIS WASN'T THE BEST TIME, HEHE... LOOK, WE'RE ALREADY REGRETTING THIS...
.....
...I THOUGHT I WAS OVERDOING IT WITH YOUR TRAINING BUT...
I SEE. IF YOU CAN STILL PULL PRANKS ON OTHERS IT MUST MEAN YOU HAVE SOME ENERGY LEFT...
EH?
ALL RIGHT.
STARTING TOMORROW I'LL PREPARE A SPECIAL KIND OF TRAINING JUST FOR THE BOTH OF YOU. LET'S JUST SAY YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO STAND UP AFTER IT.
SMILE...
PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
NOOO WAAYYY
ON THAT DAY, WE LEARNED
THAT EVEN SMILES
COULD BE SEEN ON SOMEONE SEETHING IN RAGE.


I'M HOME, LAPRA! I HEARD YOU KEPT THE SQUAD TOGETHER WHILE I WAS GONE. HOW WAS IT?
GOOD TO SEE YOU BACK, HASSE.
DID YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE?

WELCOME BACK, SECOND LIEUTENANT HANNA!!
SECOND LIEUTENANT HANNA, CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL!!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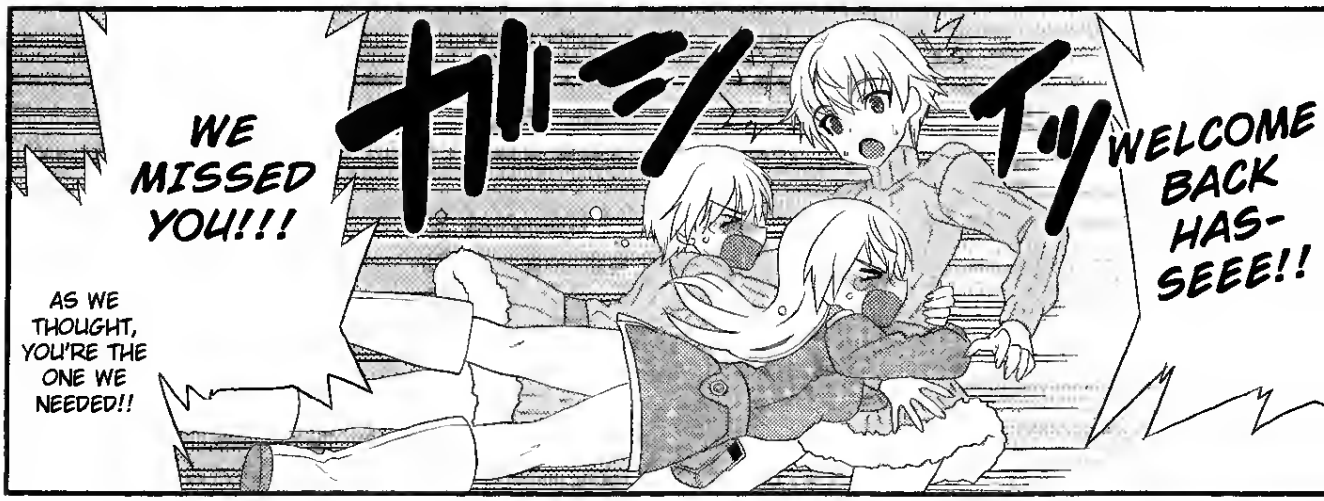
NO, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR. EVERYTHING WAS FINE.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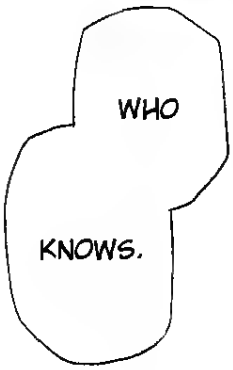
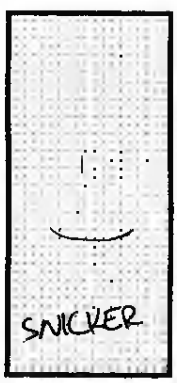
WE MISSED YOU!!!
WELCOME BACK HAS-SEEE!!
AS WE THOUGHT, YOU'RE THE ONE WE NEEDED!!

WHAT... WHAT'S WITH THESE TWO?
?
?


WHO KNOWS.


SNICKER

Vänrikki

Laura NISSINEN

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ユーティライネン

Cpt. Aurora E. JUUTILAINEN

NICKNAME : ——
BIRTHPLACE : SUOMUS
RANK : CAPTAIN
BIRTHDAY : OCTOBER 18
STRIKER UNIT : ——
UNIQUE MAGIC : ——
FAMILIAR : WOLF